

The bill would have allowed federal funding only for stem cell lines made from embryos headed for destruction, not adoption. Thus, no lives will be saved by the president's veto.

Further, embryos used in embryonic stem cell research are not human beings—not in any rational sense of the term. These embryos are smaller than a grain of sand, and consist of at most a few hundred undifferentiated cells.

While they have the potential to become human beings—if implanted in a woman's uterus and brought to term—they are nowhere near actual human beings.

No one knows for certain all that can be helped by stem cells. Most scientists believe they hold extraordinary healing powers and may aid everything from brain function impaired by Alzheimer's and Parkinson's to pancreas function limited by diabetes and heart function after a heart attack.

It is revealing that Bush has used his first veto to oppose potentially life-saving research to shore up his support among people who regard destruction of an embryo as abortion.

Anyone who truly cares about human life should condemn this religious assault on medical progress.

Granted, it's difficult to balance the moral, ethical and economic considerations in life sciences research. Elected officials must set policy that is flexible but consistent with historic national values.

But in this case, the president's beliefs and his aim for better poll numbers are preventing research that offers hope to many ailing people.

#### HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRENCH VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2006*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the French Village Fire Department located in St. Clair County, Illinois.

In 1946, residents in the Dutch Hollow and French Village neighborhoods took action to provide fire protection for their communities by forming the French Village Fire Department. Initial funding for this new department came from bake sales and raffles, but they were able to purchase a fire engine from Towers Fire Apparatus in nearby Freeburg, Illinois. The first firehouse was located on a resident's property off Rural Route 5, which is now 2nd Avenue in Fairview Heights.

Raising funds for the department was a struggle during the early years in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Picnics, dances and fish fries were some of the fund-raising activities that were required to keep the department operational. Through an election in 1953, the French Village Fire District was formed. This provided tax revenue so that the fire department could begin to plan for equipment, supplies, and ongoing operations.

In addition to growth in residential property, the early years were also marked by tragedy. In 1952, firemen Frank Robinson and Francis Johnson, Jr., lost their lives when their fire truck was struck while en route to a call. In 1954, another firefighter, Paul Hodson, suffered a fatal heart attack while fighting a vehicle fire. This second tragedy provided the

stimulus for the department to provide better emergency care.

The next decades saw continued growth for the French Village Fire Department. Additional trucks and advanced equipment were added to keep pace with the growing population as well as the new advances in technology.

In the 1980s an effort at the ballot to disband the department was defeated and a bond issue was passed to replace aging equipment and build a second fire station. The 1990s saw the opening of the new station and the department's 50th anniversary. In the new century, the French Village Fire Department continued to expand and improve with the addition of a 75-ft. aerial ladder.

The French Village Fire Department has been a shining example of dedication and professionalism, made possible by the sacrifices that their firefighters and their families have made since 1946. Their compassion, valor, and unselfish acts of courage make each of them an everyday hero.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 60th anniversary of the French Village Fire Department and to wish the best to them for continued service in the future.

#### PENSION PROTECTION ACT

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, last month President Bush signed into law the so-called Pension Protection Act. I opposed this legislation because it fails to address America's retirement security crisis—in fact, it accelerates the move away from defined-benefit pension plans and it makes it easier for companies to eliminate pensions or dump their obligations onto the backs of taxpayers. It also treats the pensions of CEOs and top executives as more sacred than those of workers.

The Federal Government should ensure that, after 30 years of service, workers will receive the pensions that they have been promised and that they have earned. Unfortunately, this bill does not live up to that responsibility. I opposed this legislation when it originally passed the House, and I had hoped that its shortcomings would be addressed in conference. I am disappointed that Democrats were excluded from the conference committee. This exclusion was a disservice to all American workers who will not benefit from their knowledge and experience in the subject.

Unfortunately, the shortcomings of the House bill were not addressed in conference. Far from protecting pensions for American workers, this legislation will allow companies to under-fund plans by simply promising to increase the contributions in future years. As the financial obligations on these companies grow, however, they will likely freeze or terminate pension plans, as they no longer make business sense to continue.

Some provisions blatantly discriminate against workers in favor of executives. The legislation allows plans that are only 60 percent funded to continue increasing the lavish benefits that executives enjoy. However, a plan must be 80 percent funded before employees can get any additional assistance. It is fundamentally unfair to hold these two groups to two different standards.

Most troubling to me is how American workers and retirees are increasingly being told, "You are on your own." As President Bush continues to advocate privatization of Social Security, and more and more companies convert their defined-benefit pensions to defined-contribution plans, retirees are having the rug pulled from under their feet. We have failed to apply the lesson that broad-based economic security facilitates sustainable growth, innovation, and productivity.

America's employees deserve retirement security. President Bush should have signed a bill that would protect employees, discourage companies from freezing or terminating their plans, address the financial shortfall at the Federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, and treat all employees equally.

Although the "Pension Protection Act" is now law, our commitment to employees who are so integral to our economy is not fulfilled. As we come off of Labor Day, I urge this body to assure the financial security of American employees through policies that achieve economic growth that is broad-based, not concentrated at the top of the income ladder.

#### NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5539, the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2006. I would also like to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL for all their hard work and for ensuring swift consideration of this important legislation.

As a wildlife enthusiast, conservationist, and member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, I am a strong supporter of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). For that reason, I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 5539.

As this body knows, NAWCA is a unique public-private, partnership-based program that leverage non-federal funds to protect, restore and manage wetland habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. Since it was signed into law in 1989, NAWCA grants have spurred more than 2,000 partners to work on more than 1,100 projects, restoring nearly 23 million acres of wetlands in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In addition, NAWCA provides an excellent return on a relatively modest federal investment. Over the years, the act has provided approximately \$720 million in grant funds which have been matched by approximately \$2.1 billion in partner funds.

Again, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Resources Committee for introducing this important legislation and look forward to continuing to work with him, Ranking Member RAHALL, members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus on this extremely successful program.

TRIBUTE TO CHLOE JANE SWEET

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2006*

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the birth of Chloe Jane Sweet. Chloe was born on September 3, 2006 to her very proud parents and my good friends, Julie and Chad.

There is no accomplishment or gift greater in life than the birth of a son or daughter. As the father of five wonderful children who are the light of my life, I know how happy and fulfilled Julie and Chad are to have a healthy and beautiful newborn baby daughter.

It is my hope, and the hope of all of their friends and family, that they continue to be blessed with the great fortune they have enjoyed in the birth of Chloe Jane.

Linda, my children and I wish them all the best as Julie and Chad begin their lives as Chloe's parents, and as Chloe begins her life as their daughter.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING NATIONAL MEMORIAL AT WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE TO COMMEMORATE AND MOURN EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 26, 1993, AND SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks of 9/11 left voids in our lives that can never be filled. Almost 3,000 families lost a loved one—sons, daughters, fathers and mothers who were taken too soon. New York City, my hometown, lost beloved residents, protectors and leaders. Our city, and our country, also lost an icon and symbol of our nation—the World Trade Center.

The hole where the World Trade Center once stood remains a somber reminder of those we lost and the heartache 9/11 has caused. Lower Manhattan and Ground Zero are being redeveloped in order to keep our city's economy strong and show our resilience and resolve. At the same time, the footprints of the Twin Towers have been preserved and designated for a permanent 9/11 memorial.

The men and women we lost on 9/11 must be honored with a poignant and thoughtful memorial. The one that is being developed is exactly that.

We must support the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation as it constructs the tribute to our fallen friends and neighbors. While we can never refill the voids left on 9/11, we can keep their memories alive forever.

When the work is completed and the memorial is opened, we will have an ever-lasting site to remember 9/11 and those who we lost. This is the way it should be—we must never forget.

IN HONOR OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

**HON. JIM MATHESON**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2001*

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, this anniversary is first, last, and always, a day of remembrance. The shock and horror of that day has diminished. But the sorrow and sadness is still present in our hearts. The mountains of debris are gone from the place where the towers of the World Trade Center once defined the skyline. But Ground Zero and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, are burial grounds still, where grief is palpable. Two Utahns were aboard one of the hijacked planes that struck the first Tower; another Utahn died at his job in the Pentagon when a third jet crashed into it. People from many other countries also died that morning. In the hours and days following the tragedy, it seemed that much of the world mourned.

The passing days brought much heartache and—ever so gradually—glimmers of hope. The heroes of 9/11—members of the New York and Port Authority police departments, and the New York City Firefighters—replaced the frightening images of the hijackers. From across this country, ordinary people put comfortable lives on hold in order to join the rescue and recovery effort. Twenty people were pulled alive from the debris. For a time, all Americans put aside their differences and united in the desire to make life better for the survivors.

The families and friends of the victims of 9/11 will always—in the words of poet ee cummings “carry your heart (I carry it in my heart).” For the rest of us, a fitting tribute to their memory may be to renew our desire to put aside contention and partisanship. We honor them when we adopt their “can-do” spirit and strive—as one nation—to make America the beacon of hope it has always been.

**HONORING MARY ELLEN MENAPACE****HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mary Ellen Menapace, who was chosen “New Mexico's Outstanding Older Worker of 2006.” At the young age of 87, she continues to work and is currently the deputy village clerk of the village of Roy, located in eastern New Mexico, serving the residents with great honor, pride and distinction.

With only a few years' exception, Mrs. Menapace has worked continually since she was a high school student. She was only 17 when she began her first full-time job. Beginning in 1934, Mrs. Menapace's positions have been many and varied, including employment for the New Mexico State Health and Welfare Department, an abstract company, the Selective Service System during World War II and as a deputy county and court clerk, payroll clerk, secretary and an office manager. She proudly states that the key to her professional

longevity and success has been the enjoyment she experienced in each and every job, and the total dedication she always gave during her many years of employment.

Noting all the advancements that have transpired in the workplace since high school, Mrs. Menapace's early years involved the use of a manual typewriter rather than a computer, carbon paper instead of a copier, and Gregg shorthand instead of e-mail. As the years passed, she committed to being the best she could be in every position she ever held. In order to accomplish that goal, and as office work became more technically advanced, Mrs. Menapace diligently took advantage of all training provided in order to enhance her knowledge and to improve her skills.

Mrs. Menapace could have completely retired at many junctures but instead chose to continue contributing to the betterment of her community. Her current position requires that she locate resources to fund village projects. One particular example of her success was securing grants to purchase trees and flowers to landscape both the main street and village park of Roy as part of the “Keep New Mexico Beautiful” State program. Another accomplishment was securing funds to purchase 75 trees that were planted to shield and shelter Roy's solid waste station.

Mary Ellen Menapace is truly a most remarkable lady. She helped support her parents and siblings during the Great Depression, was the sole provider for her own family during her husband's long illness and subsequent death, and is, herself, a cancer survivor. A devoted grandmother, she takes great pride and gratification that her later employment enabled her to raise and educate a grandson as well as assist a granddaughter-in-law in finishing law school. With all these responsibilities, Mrs. Menapace has somehow managed to be active in her community, in civic and professional organizations, and in her church. Another amazing talent is writing award-winning poetry and short stories, a gift she inherited from her father, who, she proudly proclaims, was also an agriculture and veterinary science visionary.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me in giving tribute to Mary Ellen Menapace. She is an invaluable employee, a loving family member, a devoted member of her community, an exceptional New Mexican, and an honored American.

**A TRIBUTE TO DR. JESUS M. SIERRA****HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2006*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jesus M. Sierra, beloved husband of Catherine. M. Mass Sierra for 24 years, loving father of Jesus M. Sierra Jr., Abraham Sierra, Marta I. Sierra, Janina E. Sierra, Nicholas Sierra, and Adam Eric, and caring grandfather of 11, who passed away on Sunday August 13, 2006.

Dr. Sierra was the founder and former Executive Director of the Asociacion Puertorriquenos en Marcha (APM). A tireless advocate of Latino rights, his contribution to his dearly loved Puerto Rican community cannot be measured. His deep belief in the provision of critical needs: health, human services,